

CLAIMS:

1. A method of conditionally blocking reproduction of content items on a reproduction device, the method comprising:

- obtaining a content reference identifier for a particular content item to be blocked,
- resolving the content reference identifier into a locator indicating availability of the particular content item, and
- blocking the reproduction device for the indicated availability.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the content items are broadcast and the reproduction device is arranged to receive broadcast content items, wherein the locator indicates a scheduled broadcast of the particular content item at a specific time on a specific channel, and wherein the reproduction device is blocked for reproduction for the specific time and channel.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the content items reside on a server available for transfer on a request from the reproduction device, wherein the locator indicates the availability of the content item at the server during a specific period of time, and wherein the reproduction device is blocked for retrieval of the content item from the server for the specific period of time.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein blocking of the reproduction device is reversed by a user with a proper authorization.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the proper authorization is determined by at least one of: entry of a password, entry of a smart card, recognition of a finger print, and voice recognition.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein obtaining the content reference identifier of the particular item includes:

- selecting from an external location an advisory list containing at least a reference to the particular content item, and
- receiving content reference identifiers for the content items referred to on the list.

5 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein obtaining the content reference identifier of the particular item includes:

- receiving a signal representing a further content item and containing the content reference identifier,
- during reproduction of the further content item enabling a user to indicate storing the
10 content reference identifier,
- upon the user so indicating, storing the content reference identifier.

8. A method of providing blocking information for conditionally blocking reproduction of content items on a reproduction device, the method comprising:

- 15 - preparing an advisory list containing a reference to a particular content item and containing a content reference identifier for that particular content item, and
- making the advisory list available for transfer to and use in the reproduction device for
 - resolving the content reference identifier into a locator indicating availability of the particular content item, and
- 20 - blocking the reproduction device for the indicated availability.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the advisory list is stored on a server, and wherein a user is enabled for selecting the list for transfer to the reproduction device.

25 10. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the advisory list is broadcast to the reproduction device and wherein the user is enabled to indicate storing the advisory list in the reproduction device.

30 11. A reproduction device for conditionally blocking reproduction of content items, the device comprising:

- obtaining means for obtaining a content reference identifier for a particular content item to be blocked,

- receiving means for receiving the result of resolving the content reference identifier into a locator indicating availability of the particular content item, and
- blocking means for blocking the reproduction device for the indicated availability.

5 12. A reproduction device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the reproduction device comprises resolution means for resolving the content reference identifier into the locator and wherein the receiving means are arranged to receive the result from the resolution means.

13. A set-top box for reproducing content items comprising:

- 10 – a receiver for receiving the content items, and
- a reproduction device for conditionally blocking reproduction of one or more content items as claimed in claim 11.

14. A television set for reproducing content items comprising:

- 15 – a receiver for receiving the content items,
- a reproduction device for conditionally blocking reproduction of one or more content items as claimed in claim 11, and
 - a display for displaying the content items not blocked by the reproduction device.

20 15. A video recorder for storing and reproducing content items comprising:

- a receiver for receiving the content items,
- a reproduction device for indicating conditionally blocking of reproduction of one or more content items as claimed in claim 11,
- storing means for storing the content items on a storage medium, and
- 25 – retrieving means for retrieving the content items from the storage medium.

16. A system for providing blocking information for conditionally blocking reproduction of content items on a reproduction device, the system comprising:

- preparation means for preparing an advisory list containing a reference to a particular
- 30 content item and containing a content reference identifier for that particular content item, and
- managing means for making the advisory list available for transfer to and use in the reproduction device for

- resolving the content reference identifier into a locator indicating availability of the particular content item, and
- blocking the reproduction device for the indicated availability.